

RESEARCH BULLETIN

Vol. 3, No. 4.

1970 May 2.

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From the Director

This Bulletin ushers in our third year of publication and our first of the 1970s proper, and it does so on a buoyant note. Despite the drop in Association membership mentioned in the last Bulletin, that edition was circulated to no less than 18 other countries: Argentina, Canada, United States, Mexico, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Greece, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Norway, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Iran and Ghana, and also our Chairman, Capt. Ivar Mackay, sent over 50 exchange copies to other UFO research organisations on an international basis. It is through such international exchange that ufology can best be promoted, communicated, and discussed, for without the interchange of ideas and innovations in research between ufologists everywhere we shall never succeed in our search for some sort of order in the otherwise confused and confusing world of ufology.

Analysis of the Association's sighting reports has now started, and the first batch have been sorted prior to detailed codification of sighting characteristics. This first batch consists of 878 communications, some containing more than one report, for the period from 1925 to 1967. The break down of numbers by years is as follows:

pre - 1950 = 10	1954 = 10	1959 = 18	1964 = 19
1950 = 2	1955 = 9	1960 = 38	1965 = 72
1951 = 2	1956 = 11	1961 = 103	1966 = 121
1952 = 4	1957 = 22	1962 = 73	1967 = 310
1953 = 1	1958 = 17	1963 = 36	

A more detailed description of the report analysis procedure will be presented in the next Research Bulletin.

In my last editorial I asked for affiliated societies and other organisations with their own sighting report files relating to sightings in the United Kingdom to either send me copies of the reports for inclusion in the full analysis, or to send in extracted statistics for comparison. The response to this request has been rather disappointing so far, but I am hopeful that more contributions will be forthcoming so that the final report can be truly representative of British UFO activity over at least the past 20 years.

Stephen Smith

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Papua - June 1959

The last BUFORA Journal, Vol.2, No.11, contained an article based on an exclusive interview with Fr. William Gill who was at the Anglican Mission at Boianai, Papua, at the time of the amazing sightings of 1959. The Journal article dealt with the narrative of the events, this article is based on the rare pamphlet "Flying Saucers over Papua - A Report on Papuan Unidentified Flying Objects" by the Revd. N.E.G. Cruttwell, M.A., of the Anglican Mission, Menapi, Papua, dated March 1960. In this report which covers many sightings from the years 1953 to 1959 are contained transcripts of the notes taken by Fr. Gill during the events at Boianai and tracings of the sketches of the objects made by the witnesses. Reproduced below are the notes, the sketches, and some extracts from other parts of the pamphlet.

Notes taken by Fr. Gill during the events of Friday, 26/6/59.

<u>Sky</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Events</u>
Patches of low cloud.	6.45 pm	Sighted bright white light from front door in NW.
Clear over Dogura and Menapi.	6.50	Call Stephen (Gill Moi) and Eric Langford.
	6.52	Stephen arrives. Confirms not star-like the other night. Coming closer, not so bright. Coming down, 500'? Orange? Deep yellow?
	6.55	Send Eric to call people. One object on top, moves - man? Now three men - moving, glowing, doing something on deck. Gone.
	7.00	Men 1 and 2 again.
	7.04	Gone again.
Cloud covered sky at about 2000 ft.	7.10	1,3,4,2 (appeared in that order). Thin electric blue spotlight. Men gone. Spot-light still there.
	7.12	Men 1 and 2 appeared - blue light.
	7.20	Spotlight off. Men go. UFO goes through cloud.
Clear sky here, heavy cloud over Dogura.	8.28	UFO seen by me overhead. Call station people. Appeared to descend, get bigger. Not so big, but seemed nearer than before.
	8.29	Second UFO seen over sea, hovering at times.
Cloud forming again.	8.35	Another one over Wadobuna village. Another to the East.
Clouds patchy.	8.50	Big one stationary and larger - the original? Others coming and going through the clouds, light reflected like a large halo onto cloud, no more than 2000 ft. probably less. All UFOs very clear - satellites? 'Mother ship' still large, clear, stationary.
	9.05	Nos. 2,3,4 gone.
	9.10	'Mother ship' gone - giving red light. No.1 gone overhead into cloud.
	9.20	Mother back.
	9.30	'Mother' gone across sea to Giwa - white, red, blue, gone.
	9.46	Overhead UFO reappears, is hovering.
	10.00	Still there stationary.
	10.10	Hovering, gone behind cloud.
	10.30	Very high, hovering in clear patch of sky between clouds.
	10.50	Very overcast. No sign of UFO.
	11.04	Heavy rain.

Data sheet of observations of UFOs, 6.45 to 11.04 pm., 26/6/59.

(signed) William B. Gill

Altogether there were 38 witnesses of whom 25 signed the report. Apart from Fr. Gill himself they had included 5 Papuan teachers and 3 medical assistants.

The hovering height between 6.52 & 6.55 at between 300' and 500'. Fr. Gill estimated apparent diameter of object at 5" at arms length. Stephen Gill Moi said that a closed fist at arms length would just cover half the object.

Fr. Gill reports that the object appeared solid, certainly not transparent or gaseous; and that the witnesses just assumed that it was metallic from their experience of things that travel and carry men.

All witnesses agreed that the object was circular, that it had a wide base and a narrower upper deck, that it had a type of leg structure beneath it, that it produced at times a shaft of blue light which shone upwards into the sky at an angle of about 45° and that the four 'human' figures appeared on top. Fr. Gill is emphatic about the absence of sound throughout the whole activity.

Report for Saturday 27/6/59.

About 6.00 p.m. Papuan medical assistant sights UFO in apparently same position as night before.

6.02 p.m. Fr. Gill comes out and sees object. Same as last night, but seemed a little smaller - farther away?

6.02 - 6.17 p.m. Crowd gathers to watch the UFO. We watched figures appear on top - four of them - there is no doubt that they were human. This is probably the same object that I took to be the 'Mother ship' last night. Two smaller UFOs were seen at the same time, stationary, one over the hills, West, and the other overhead.

On the large one the figures seemed to be doing something near the centre of the deck - they were occasionally bending over and raising their arms as if adjusting or setting up something (not visible). One figure seemed to be standing with his hands on the 'rail' looking over, just as one will look over the rails of a ship.

I stretched my arm above my head and waved. To our surprise the figure did the same. Ananias waved both arms over his head, then the two outside figures did the same. Ananias and I began waving our arms and all four seemed to wave back. There seemed to be no doubt that our movements were answered. All the mission boys made audible gasps of either joy or surprise or both.

As dark was beginning to close in, I sent Eric Kadowa for a torch, and directed a series of long dashes towards the UFO. After a minute or two of this, the UFO apparently acknowledged by making several wavering motions back and forth (in a sideways motion, like a pendulum).

Waving by us was repeated, and this was followed by more flashes of the torch. Then the UFO began slowly to become bigger, apparently coming in our direction. It ceased after perhaps half a minute and came on no further.

After a further two or three minutes the figures apparently lost interest in us, for they disappeared below deck.

At 6.25 p.m. two figures reappeared to carry on with whatever they were doing before the interruption. The blue spotlight came on for a few seconds, twice in succession. Attempts to contact the men by shouting brought no response.

The third night, Sunday, 28/6/59.

6.00 p.m. No sign of UFO.

6.45 p.m. Only one UFO practically overhead and slightly north. Very high, but clearly distinguishable, due to hovering motion. (Fr. Gill uses the word 'hovering' in the sense of wavering movement in a small area).

7.30 p.m. Same UFO, moved to southern position, but still more or less overhead.

9.00 p.m. 3 UFOs in almost straight line - all high, sky clear.

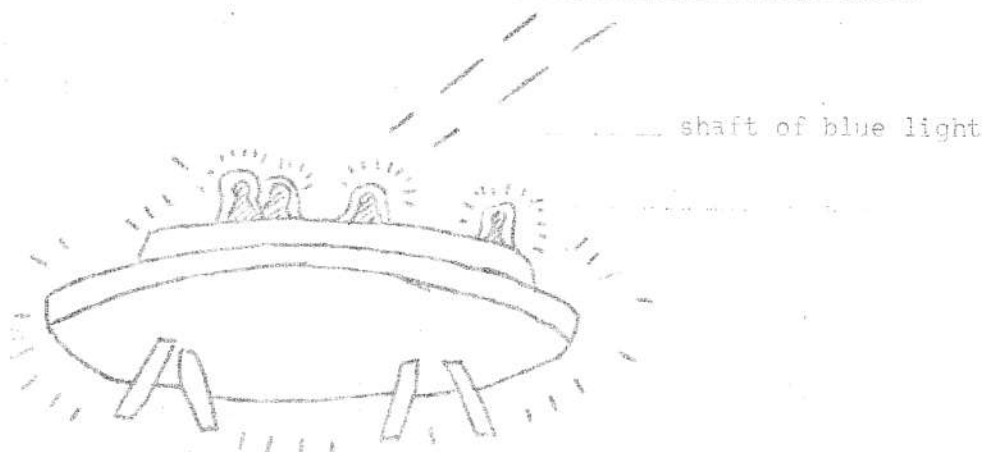
11.00 p.m. 8 UFOs. This is the largest number seen at one time. One fairly low, but except for hovering motion no activity seen on board.

11.20 p.m. A sharp metallic and loud bang on Mission House roof, as though a piece of metal had dropped from a great height. No roll of object down roof slope afterwards. Outside, four UFOs in a circle around the station. All high.

11.30 p.m. Observations ceased with UFOs still there.

The roof was examined the next morning but no signs of the impact of

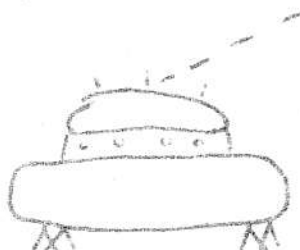
Drawings made by witnesses of the objects seen on the Friday night, 26/6/59.



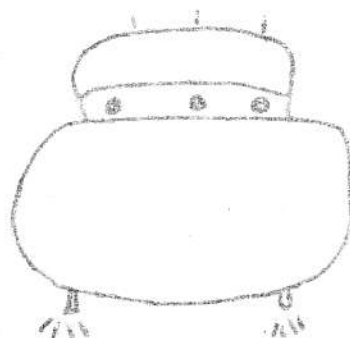
Drawing made by Fr. W.B. Gill (traced from the tracing in Rev. N.E.G. Cruttwell report)



Sketch by Stephen Gill Moi



Sketch by Ananias Rorata



Sketch by Dulcie F. Guyorobo

Witnesses sketches
traced from reduced
facsimiles

Official Reaction

President of the Victorian Flying Saucer Society, Mr. Peter Norris, LL. B., wrote to the Director of Air Force Intelligence on 12/9/59, asking whether the Air Force had investigated the Boianai Reports, and what conclusions they had come to. The Air Force replied that they had no official information of the sightings but were now making enquiries into the matter. Squadron Leader D.F. Gibson visited Fr. Gill and cross-examined him about the Boianai sightings.

Later this official reply was received by the Flying Saucer Society:-

From: Sqdn. Ldr. F.A. Lang.

To: Mr. P.E. Norris.

554/1/30 (5M)

22nd February 1960.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 25th January 1960. An Officer of this Directorate has investigated Reverend Gill's report of UFO activities in the Boianai area of New Guinea, and copies of his findings have been submitted to the appropriate authorities. As mentioned in our 114/1/201 (AAA) dated 14th. February 1957, such reports are not releasable to the public. However, although it is not possible to reach any positive conclusions, we do not believe that the objects observed by the Rev. Gill and his party were manned space vehicles. An analysis of bearings and angles above the horizon does suggest that at least three of the lights were planets, e.g. Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. Light refraction, the changing position of the planets relative to the observers, and the unsettled weather could give the impression of size and rapid movement.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) F.A. Lang.

The Report by Rev. Cruttwell ends with some statistics on the distribution of the Papuan sightings he has collected together. During the period from Oct. 1958 to Nov. 1959 he records 70 sightings, with June, July, and August '59 as the peak months. A table of hourly frequencies shows that most sightings took place during the period from 6.00 to 8.00., p.m. i.e. during the time of sunset. In all 95 objects were reported (some thought to be identical) from 21 locations within and around Papua.

From the accounts in Rev. Cruttwell's report it is probable that many of the objects are indeed astronomical in origin but mis-identified by the Rev. Gill because of the reasons put forward in the R.A.A.F. letter from Lang; but no simple explanation can be contrived to account for the reports of the discoid craft seen on the Friday and Saturday, 26th & 27th June 1959. The documentation relating to these sightings make them some of the best on record.

BUFORA Research Section.

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BUFORA News

The Scottish UFO Society recently held a meeting involving a 'tape' talk by Rex Dutta, B.A., F.S.Z. on "The Esoteric Significance of Flying Saucers". The meeting was held at the home of the Society's Secretary, Miss Sheila Walker. The Society, in conjunction with Mr. Ernest Still of Aberdeen, and Mr. Duncan Hogg of Glasgow are pooling information on Scottish sightings through the assistance of Mr. Gary Robertson. Some interesting facets of the compilation work are emerging and we hope to hear more details in the near future.

Mr. Ernest Still has gained some useful newspaper publicity for his own investigation work in the Aberdeen Post and Journal. He is planning effective participation in the two BUFORA Skywatches of May 16/17 and June 27/28. Mr. Still is at the moment researching into all sightings that occurred on 1968 Nov 21 and 1969 July 15. Reports received so far indicate that a series of sightings related to one object were made on these nights, and in view of Dr. J. Allen Hynek's pleas for more consecutive, well ordered data on UFOs in the latest Flying Saucer Review, would all readers with any knowledge of sightings on or near these dates please write to Mr. Still at 60, Sheddocksley Rd., Mestrick, Aberdeen, Scotland.

Mr. Malcolm Drew and Mr. Alan Crowe of Birmingham have joined forces to provide good investigation of the sightings from their area. They are operating under the name "The Birmingham UFO Investigation Group", which is intended for serious investigators only. Anyone interested in the "BUFOIG" should write to 511, Warwick Rd., B'ham, 11.

The British Flying Saucer Bureau are organising the BUFORA Western Region Conference on May 16 at Shirehampton Public Hall, not far from Bristol. The Conference is due to start at 2.00 p.m. and last until 10.00 p.m. The theme is "UFOs in Antiquity and pre-History". Tickets are 15/- each, including tea, available from the Conference Registrar, 27, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol, BS11 9TU. Please send S.A.E. and remittance with application for ticket.

National Skywatches 1970 on May 16/17 and June 27/28 are already well supported, but many more watching posts can be accommodated, so if your society or group of friends has not yet decided to take part, do so as soon as possible in time to receive full details of the watching posts on each night. Full details are available from Edgar Hatvany, 19, Richmond Avenue, East Bedfont, Middlesex. Please enclose an S.A.E. with your enquiry and details of your own watching post. Watching posts are already arranged for May as follows: at Aberdeen Mr. Ernest Still, at Halifax Trevor Whitaker of 253, Huddersfield Rd., Halifax, at Dunstable David Viewing of Lambs Cottage, Souldrop, Bedford, at Birmingham Malcolm Drew of 81 Robin Hood Lane, Hall Green, B'ham, at Cambridge the Cambridge UFO Study Group, at Beachy Head COSMOS with Charles Carpenter of 162, Wickham Way, Beckenham, Kent. At the June watch will also be SIGAP at Pewley Downs nr. Guildford, J. Cleary-Baker (BUFORA) at Woodbury Rings, the Cambridge UFO Study Group at Devils Dyke nr. Burwell, and COSMOS at Star Hill, Warminster.

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Investigation Report - March 1970.

Since taking over from Richard Farrow, I have spent most of my time checking through the list of investigators and arranging them in area 'cells' throughout the United Kingdom.

We have at the present time 118 areas covered by BUFORA involving some 150 investigators, but unfortunately there are many cases where the investigators are grouped in cities and towns and large areas of the country are left without practical coverage (see footnote). The investigators will be notified of their area numbers in the near future and they will also be told of other BUFORA investigators in their immediate vicinity so that they will be able to co-ordinate their own local activities in the event of a 'flap'. I am also engrossed in the task of sorting through the investigators to find out how many of them can be contacted by telephone in an emergency and this may take a little time before the list is complete.

The procedure for investigating a report is this: the position is plotted on a large wall map, the local investigators are shown by the nearest paper disc number, this in turn refers to an index card which gives the address of the investigators and also his telephone number. If there is more than one then it is anticipated that a local 'group leader' will be appointed and it will be up to him to contact the other local members and to organise the preliminary investigation of the report. New duplicated information sheets will be sent to all investigators outlining this scheme and also advising of the procedure to be taken in an investigation. It has been suggested that official BUFORA investigator cards should be supplied to each investigator and this matter is being investigated at the moment.

The Halifax Branch of BUFORA have informed me that they are investigating a report from the Crofton area near Wakefield that took place on Feb. 3rd., and I am awaiting further details. There is also a report from Mr. M.J. Ward about a 'light in the sky' report near Northampton on Feb. 5th., and we have a well documented report from Mr. D.M. Thurston, concerning an incident near Bournemouth in early February. Mr. Thurston has also held a public opinion poll of his own, with interviews on the subject of UFOs. Over 100 people were interviewed in the Bournemouth area and the results should be interesting.

Currently an incident at Walthamstowe that took place on January 1st., 1970 is being investigated by two members who cover this area (area 88).

Apart from these incidents the UFO situation appears to be quiet.

Omar Fowler
Investigations Coordinator.

Footnote: We urgently require investigators for North Cornwall, North Devon, Somerset, Suffolk, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Northern Scotland, Central Wales, and North-West Ireland.

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Advance or Retreat - A Reappraisal for 1970.

(Reprinted by kind permission of the Editor of the Merseyside
UFO Bulletin and the author from M.UFO.B. Vol.2, No.6)

Two recent articles in the literature (1,2) have brought to the fore a conflict which seems to have reared its head from time to time ever since the beginning of serious investigation over twenty years ago. I refer to the confrontation between what might be described as the scientific and non-scientific schools of thought respectively, although this method of grouping is too stark to be completely satisfactory. Another pair of classes would be the objective and the subjective, though by and large the line of demarcation would fall in the same place in each case.

In order to put the matter in perspective it is of importance to ask the questions: "Why do people become interested in the subject of unidentified flying objects?" and "What sorts of people become interested in this subject?" The answer to the second question is supplied in large measure by the answer to the first and both replies have much in common with the answers to similar questions posed in connection with other interesting subjects of general public concern such, for example, as astronomy and extra-sensory perception, to mention but two which arouse wide interest.

First of all it is obvious that such things appeal to many people with active, enquiring minds, both those who have been educated in some scientific discipline and those who have no such upbringing.

Secondly, there is the appeal of the unusual, the macabre, and the unknown.

Third is what may be described as the mystical and quasi-religious connotation in an era of difficult problems with which many people feel themselves either incapable of grappling, or out of tune with the adopted solutions.

Fourth is the declining role of the amateur in many important and attractive disciplines, which leads to a desire to escape the continually expanding zone where professionals hog the limelight and resist the participation in their lore of other members of the community.

Fifth is what may be called the 'crank appeal'.

Sixth is the general intellectual interest of a fresh topic which comes at a time when society seems to be increasingly oriented towards the reward of manual pursuits. This last may tend to explain the disproportionately large membership of the disillusioned 'middle class' in the ranks of the UFO faithful.

From the preceding analysis it is not hard to see why many ufologists approach the subject from diverse viewpoints and why many interpretations border on the mystic and occult. It is always tempting to eschew the rigorous demands of objectivity by invoking the supernatural when the going becomes a little rough.

In addition it is hardly surprising that there should be a reaction against objectivity when so many years of unremitting toil have produced so meagre a harvest of concrete results. Nevertheless the swing to the subjective can be emphasised, for irrationality has always been a marked feature of the UFO scene, greatly to the detriment of the subject and the displeasure of its more sensible devotees.

The plethora of highly imaginative contact cases and tales of romantic rides in sophisticated spaceships makes it extremely difficult to separate fiction from fact and has necessitated the psychological investigation of observers of UFO phenomena in an attempt to weed out the

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In summary, then, the way forward is clear. Mysticism must be eschewed. Objectivity must be the watchword. Scientific evaluation must be the goal. The extra-terrestrial hypothesis must be staunchly adhered to as the fundamental precept. Otherwise we must be resigned to the investigation of natural and man-made phenomena and should re-align our thinking accordingly. A not impossible eventuality, it is fair to remark.

References: 1) Rimmer, J.A. "The UFO as an anti-scientific symbol" MUFOB, 2, 4.
2) Michel, A. "In defence of the ETH" F.S.R., 15, 6.

Alan W. Sharp

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The Mirror Ball UFO

An item which appeared in the correspondence column of the Birmingham Sunday Mercury on 15/2/70, led us to interview a Mrs. J. Hayward of Windsor Rd., Stirchley, Birmingham. She described in her letter to the newspaper: "a very bright star ... after a few seconds it grew bigger and bigger until it was larger than a full-sized football ... shining like a diamond ..."

On the 24th, Mrs. Hayward, a middle-aged housewife, told us how, at 0625 on Tuesday, 3rd Feb., she saw a very unusual object from the front bedroom of her terraced house in a busy suburb of Birmingham. It was a cold, dry, moonless night, with intermittent cloud. Mrs. Hayward is in the habit of rising early in order to awaken her son and daughter-in-law who also live in the house.

Mrs. Hayward: "This started like a very tiny star, and it was very brilliant and then it gradually got bigger to the size of a golf-ball, then to a tennis-ball, then it grew massive (Mrs. Hayward described a large circle with her hands) and all the while it was buzzing."

Mrs. Hayward then told us how, whilst watching the object, she gave a running commentary to her husband who was in bed in the same room. Mr. Hayward, who is a semi-invalid, was unable to join his wife at the window, but was able to hear the continuous 'buzzing' sound, clearly audible although the window was closed.

Mrs. Hayward: "You know the cuts on a diamond? ... you could see those ... you know those big lights they have in ballrooms which flash as they go round ... just like one of those."

Mrs. Hayward went on to describe how the 'buzzing' sound appeared to increase in violence with the approach of the object. At its largest, Mrs. Hayward claimed that the object almost encompassed the width of her bedroom window which is approximately four feet wide. It then receded to its former star-like appearance and vanished behind cloud which seemed to be illuminated by a 'silvery light'. Mr. Hayward had by now raised himself up in bed and was able to see this effect. The whole sighting had lasted about two minutes.

Mrs. Hayward was emphatic that the object appeared to be solid and of a well-defined shape. She could suggest no logical explanation for what she had seen. Her son and daughter-in-law saw and heard nothing and Mrs. Hayward's dog did not, to her knowledge, react in any way during the sighting.

It was apparent to us that Mrs. Hayward was unfamiliar with the subject of UFOs but it was established that, some twenty years previously, she had had a telepathic experience involving her husband and a previous psychic experience when she was a young girl. These together with her present UFO sighting appear to be her only experience of unusual phenomena. Mrs. Hayward also told us that on the previous evening to our visit she had been interviewed by a man who claimed to be connected with the Ministry of Defence. After obtaining details of her sighting and her signature on an 'official' form he said that this would be chronicled.

Investigations are continuing.

Alan K. Crowe,
Malcolm H. Drew.

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